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GROUP 1700

CLAIM SET AS AMENDED

1. (Currently Amended) Sheet tobacco comprising:

a tobacco powder layer containing a tobacco powder material and a binder; and

a carrier layer covering one side of said tobacco, powder layer and made of nonwoven plant fibers wherein the binder binds together the tobacco powder material in the tobacco layer and the nonwoven plant fibers in the carrier layer by infiltration into the carrier layer.

2. (Original) The sheet tobacco according to claim 1, further comprising a cover layer covering the other side of said tobacco powder layer and made of nonwoven plant fibers.

3. (Currently Amended) The sheet tobacco according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein said tobacco powder layer has a basis weight of 30 to 200 g/m², and said carrier layer and said cover layer each have a basis weight of 3 to 50 g/m².

4. (Previously Amended) The sheet tobacco according to claim 1, wherein said tobacco powder layer has a binder content of not greater than 15% by weight with respect to the tobacco powder material.

5. (Currently Amended) The sheet tobacco according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein the binder is used to bind the tobacco powder material and also to bind together the plant fibers of at least one of said carrier layer and said cover layer.

6. (Previously Amended) The sheet tobacco according to claim 1, wherein the binder contains cornstarch.

7. (Currently Amended) The sheet tobacco according to ~~any one of claim 1~~ claim 2, further comprising a tobacco particle layer sandwiched between said tobacco powder layer and said carrier layer or between said cover layer and said tobacco powder layer, said tobacco particle layer containing particles of tobacco stems and laminas.

8-21. (Withdrawn).

22. (New) The sheet tobacco according to claim 2, wherein the binder binds together the nonwoven plant fibers in the cover layer by infiltration into the cover layer.

23. (New) The sheet tobacco according to claim 2, wherein the binder binds the tobacco powder layer to the carrier layer and to the cover layer.

24. (New) Sheet tobacco comprising:

a carrier layer made of nonwoven fabric, the nonwoven fabric including plant fibers; and
a tobacco powder layer covering one side of said carrier layer, said tobacco powder layer
containing a tobacco powder material and a binder for binding together the plant fibers in the
nonwoven fabric and the tobacco powder material in the tobacco powder layer.